DC #71

DIRECT CURRENTS

FEBRUARY COVER DATE

IN THIS ISSUE:

BATMAN: MASK OF THE PHANTASM—THE ANIMATED MOVIE

LOBOCOP—
Frag all crims!

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES
goes underground!

FIGHTING AMERICAN
fights on!

Cover of the Month
LOBOCOP #1

"REIGN OF TOMORROW"... TODAY!

In the exciting wake of "Reign of the Supermen," DC heats things up with two new ongoing titles and two new miniseries. The Superman momentum continues at super-speed with the release of SUPERBOY, STEEL, SUPERGIRL, LEGENDS OF THE WORLD'S FINEST... and more!

SUPERBOY is busting loose in his own ongoing series, as the Metropolis Kid relocates to Hawaii following the tumultuous events in "Reign of the Supermen." But there's trouble in paradise as Superboy confronts a villain with a score to settle. It seems that somehow, somewhere, these two combatants have met before... and their rematch may tear up all Honolulu! SUPERBOY is an ongoing monthly title in the Standard Format, written by Karl Kesel, featuring art by Tom Grummett and Doug Hazlewood.

Next is STEEL as John Henry Irons heads for Washington, DC to start his life anew. But his mysterious past continues to haunt him, and in a wave of violence, this former Superman is compelled again to take up his hammer, forge a suit of powered armor, and assume the new mantle of STEEL. STEEL is an ongoing monthly title in the Standard Format, written by Jon Bogdanove and Louise Simonson, with art by Chris Batista and Rich Faber.

Rounding out the "Reign of Tomorrow" is SUPERGIRL, a 4-issue miniseries that begins as Matrix, the Girl of Steel, realizes that Lex Luthor II may not be the noble soul he seems. Luthor's odd behavior leads Supergirl to uncover a terrible secret he's been keeping from her since Doomsday's rampage. From that point it's Supergirl unleashed—as the Matrix's discovery sends her into a berserk rage that threatens Luthor's very life... unless Superman can protect him! SUPERGIRL is written by Roger Stern and features art by June Brigman and Jackson Guice.

FEBRUARY COVER DATE

The action continues as Superman and Batman, two of the hottest heroes in comics, join forces in LEGENDS OF THE WORLD'S FINEST, an untold tale of nightmarish terror. When Silver Banshee and the ancient entity Tullus unite against the demonic Blaze, Superman and the Dark Knight are drawn into a web of arcane intrigue that causes them to dream each other's dreams while the villains battle in the Netherworld. This infernal scheme may cost both heroes their souls, as their nocturnal visions affect each other's waking minds and threaten their very sanity. LEGENDS OF THE WORLD'S FINEST is a 3-issue Prestige Format miniseries written by Walter Simonson, with fully-painted art and foil-embossed covers by Daniel Brereton.

There's also continuing excitement in the four ongoing Superman titles, with the Man of Steel's epic battle with Lobo in SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #30, offered in two great editions. The Collector's Edition is polybagged with "vinyl clings" of Superman and Lobo that can adhere to the wrap-around cover in any position, so that you can actually design your own covers! One planet just isn't big enough for a fight between these two powerhouses, so Lobo drags Superman away from Earth, hoping to finish the job that Doomsday only started. But both combatants are shocked to find that Superman is now unaffected by the airless, subzero void of deep space... and more powerful than ever! This discovery sets in motion more exciting outer-space adventures that continue all month in SUPERMAN #86, ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #509, and ACTION COMICS #696.

Superman also makes a special appearance in L.E.G.I.O.N. '94 #63. Plus, the Eradicator—the other surviving former Superman—guest-stars in two books this month: HAWKMAN #6 and OUTSIDERS #4.

Superman... Superboy... Supergirl... Steel... the Never-ending Battle rages on!

Paul Kupperberg, Writer
Marco Palmieri, Editor
Tom McCraw, Colorist
Patricia Jeres, Manager—Marketing Communications
Bob Wayne, Director—Direct Market Sales

DIRECT CURRENTS #71 February 1994. Published by DC Comics, 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. Copyright © 1993 by DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Except as otherwise noted, all DC Comics books, titles, characters names, slogans, logos, and related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics.
VERTIGO and PIRANHA PRESS are trademarks of DC Comics. All Rights Reserved.
CHAIN GANG WAR is Copyright © 1993 John Wagner and David Johnson. All Rights Reserved.
DEMOLITION MAN, all characters, names, and related indicia are trademarks of Warner Bros. Copyright © 1993. PRINTED IN CANADA

FIGHTING AMERICAN is Copyright © 1993 Joe Simon and Jack Kirby.
MILESTONE and related logo are TM Milestone Media, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
HARDWARE, BLOOD SYNDICATE, ICON, and STATIC are TM 1993 DC Comics and Copyright © 1993 Milestone Media, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
SCARAB is Copyright © 1993 John Smith and Scot Eaton. All Rights Reserved.
SCARLETT is Copyright © 1993 Tom Joyner, Keith Wilson and Jim Fern. All Rights Reserved.
STAR TREK and STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION are copyright © 1993 Paramount Pictures. All Rights Reserved. STAR TREK and STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION are registered trademarks of Paramount Pictures. DC Comics Authorized User.

BATMAN FACES THE MASK OF THE PHANTASM

The monthly BATMAN ADVENTURES portrays exciting adventures based on the smash hit Fox TV show, *Batman: The Animated Series.* Now, tying in with the Christmas release of Warner Bros. Animation's *Batman: Mask of the Phantasm — The Animated Movie,* DC offers the official comics adaptation, BATMAN: MASK OF THE PHANTASM—THE ANIMATED MOVIE, by writer Kelley Puckett with art by Mike Parobeck and Rick Burchett, the creative team behind THE BATMAN ADVENTURES.

In it, Batman confronts a mysterious new vigilante who has begun assassinating the gangsters of Gotham City. The killer is Phantasm, a terrifying villain who may hold an important key to the Dark Knight's past in this shocking tale of twisted revenge. BATMAN: MASK OF THE PHANTASM—THE ANIMATED MOVIE is offered in two great editions, a Prestige Format edition with a beautiful painted cover by Batman animation artist/producer Bruce Timm, and a Standard Format edition, with a cover by Parobeck and Burchett.

But the excitement doesn't end there, as DC presents the one-shot THE BATMAN ADVENTURES: MAD LOVE, a 64-page Glossy Format one-shot written by *Batman: The Animated Movie* and *Batman: The Animated Series* producer/director Paul Dini. Illustrated by Batman animator/producer Timm, THE BATMAN ADVENTURES: MAD LOVE features the secret origin of Harley Quinn, one of the most popular characters in the hit cartoon. It also tells for the first time how the Joker turned his Arkham Asylum psychiatrist into his deranged sidekick, a foe as deadly as any that Batman has ever faced... and as cunningly twisted as the Clown Prince of Crime himself!

THE FIGHTING AMERICAN... MAKING AMERICA SAFE FROM ITSELF!

Where have the real heroes gone? The world has been overrun with brooding anti-heroes, sociopathic urban vigilantes, and amoral existentialists! How could a confused culture take comfort... if not for the FIGHTING AMERICAN?

The Fighting American — the classic American hero of the 1950s created by the legendary team of Joe Simon and Jack Kirby — is back in action in a slightly skewed tightrope thriller of sky-high adventure. Created to battle a Red Menace that no longer exists, the Fighting American takes on the bewilderingly different social and political threats of today. Battling whatever bizarre menaces crop up, the Fighting American tackles characters like the Media Circus, the pug-ugly Gross National Product, and the deficit-spending Def Izzit... threats masterminded by the diabolical masters of the non sequitur, the Free Association.

In the mid-1980s, Johnny Flagg was one of the most vocal foes of the Red Menace. Every day, he stood on the front lines of the media blitz battling Communist cadres with his muckraking daytime television talk show, *Flagg Waving*. Then, Johnny was gunned down by the minions of the evil Ivan "Poison" Brotski, leaving Johnny's frail and timid brother, Nelson, to carry on the fight.

FIGHTING AMERICAN is a 6-issue miniseries written by Pat McGreal and Dave Rawson, with art by Greg LaRocque and Richard Space.

FIGHTING AMERICAN... fighting for an America he never made!

IN BRIGHTEST DAY, IN DARKEST KNIGHT

What if Batman's grim vendetta against the criminal element were fueled by the virtually unlimited power of a Green Lantern?

The answer to that question is found here, in the Elseworlds adventure BATMAN: IN DARKEST KNIGHT, the startling story of what might have happened had the dying Abin Sur selected Bruce Wayne to be the Green Lantern of Sector 2814. Consumed by the need to avenge his slain parents, this grim Green Lantern begins his career in Gotham City. Soon pressured by the Guardians to expand the scope of his activities, Wayne encounters the renegade Green Lantern Sinestro, who carries his maniacal evil to Earth, further fueling the fire that burns in Wayne's soul.

BATMAN: IN DARKEST KNIGHT is a one-shot Prestige Format special, written by Mike W. Barr, with art and fully-painted cover with silver-foil embossed logo by Jerry Bingham.

BATMAN: IN DARKEST KNIGHT... Beware his power, Green Lantern's light!

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES... FACING THE FUTURE AS FUGITIVES!

Devastated in the aftermath of their epic battle with Glorith, the Legion of Super-Heroes is faced with a host of startling changes beginning this month! One member of the team lies dead, and others have been strangely altered. When the Legion returns to their home base on Talus, the team finds itself ostracized—framed for crimes it did not commit and branded traitors by the galaxy it's sworn to protect! To survive, the Legion must go "underground"— its members adopting new codenames and new costumes so they can still function as a force for justice—knowing that their one chance at redemption is already lost in the twisted streams of time.

Series writer Tom McCraw probes deep into the various Legion characters as events conspire to put the team through one of its toughest trials. Artists/co-plotters Stuart Immonen and Ron Boyd assist in boosting the excitement level to new heights as a major shake-up of the Legion roster occurs. One member suffers a severe breakdown and others are compelled to leave the team as the greatest heroes of the 30th century are broken...and remade!

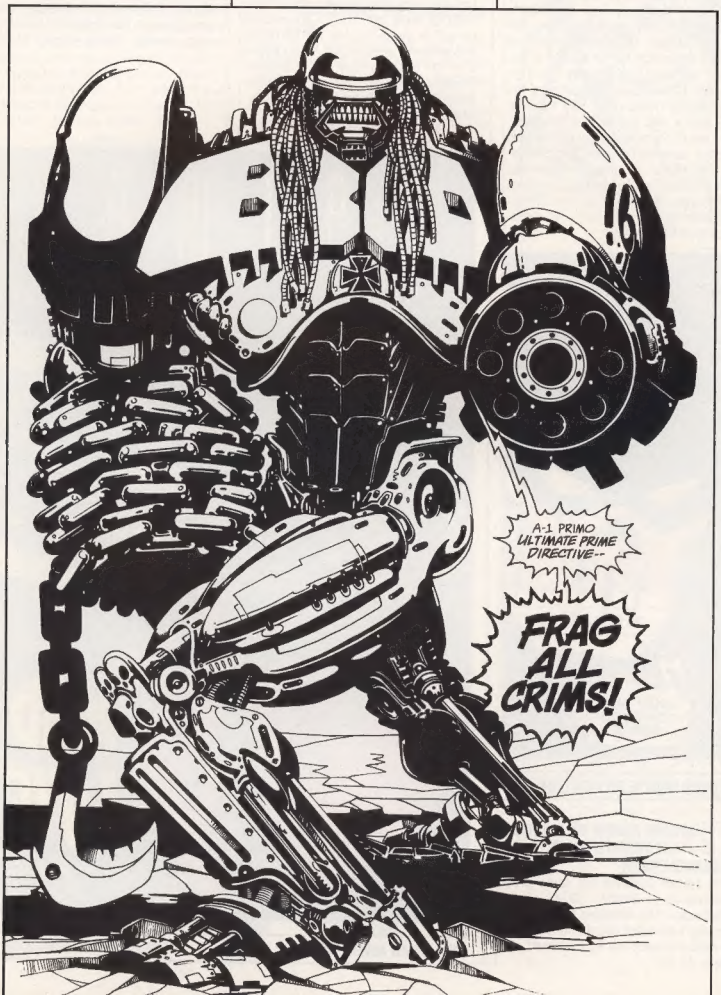
THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #54 features a special 28-page story and a die-cut, foil-stamped cover enhancement.

FRAGGIN' ALL CARS... IT'S LOBOCOP!

LOBO has just accidentally partied himself to death ... but that doesn't mean the end of the Main Man from Czarnia—not when some twisted corporate scientists decide that he'd be the perfect subject for a sick experiment to create the ultimate police officer. Salvaging Lobo's deranged brain for placement in a robot body, the Last Czarnian becomes... Lobocop.

What follows is a hysterical look at Lobo's approach to law enforcement, with a universe full of both perpetrators and innocent bystanders subjected to Lobocop's oh, so subtle way of dispensing justice. And when he hits the street, he's one mean robotic cop who's stoked to carry out his prime directive to frag all crims!

LOBOCOP #1 is a 32-page one-shot special in the new Glossy Format, written by Alan Grant and featuring art and cover by Martin Emond, with computer coloring by Digital Chameleon.



FEBRUARY COVER DATE

SHIPPING DECEMBER 7

☐ **BATMAN: MASK OF THE PHANTASM —THE ANIMATED MOVIE PRESTIGE EDITION**

Tying in with the excitement surrounding the release of Warner Bros. Animation's *Batman: Mask of the Phantasm—The Animated Movie,* DC presents the official comics adaptation of this eagerly anticipated film, available in the Prestige Format. Someone is assassinating the gangsters of Gotham City, and the killer may hold a vital key to Batman's past. It's a tale of shocking intrigue and twisted revenge, featuring the Joker and a terrifying new villain... Phantasm. Written by Kelley Puckett, with art by Mike Parobeck and Rick Burchett, and a painted cover by animation artist Bruce Timm. 64 pages. *(Prestige Format.)* $4.95.

BATMAN: MASK OF THE PHANTASM

☐ **BATMAN: MASK OF THE PHANTASM —THE ANIMATED MOVIE STANDARD EDITION**

This edition features the same great adaptation of *Batman: Mask of the Phantasm—The Animated Movie* as the Prestige Edition but with a different cover by Mike Parobeck and Rick Burchett. 64 pages. $2.95.

SHIPPING DECEMBER 14

☐ **BATMAN #504**

Continuing "Knightquest: The Crusade," featuring Batman: Batman is hot on the trail of Catwoman in the belief that she's the thief behind a stolen shipment of nerve gas, while Catwoman is pursuit of the real terrorist. And while she and the Dark Knight fight it out, all Gotham City is in danger. Continued in CATWOMAN #7. Written by Doug Moench, with art by Mike Manley. Cover by Kelley Jones. $1.50

☐ **THE BATMAN ADVENTURES: MAD LOVE**

For the first time, learn the secret origin of Harley Quinn, one of the most popular characters from the hit *Batman: The Animated Series!* In Arkham Asylum, the Joker turns his psychiatrist into his cunningly twisted sidekick... a foe as deadly as any that Batman has ever faced. Written by Paul Dini, with art and cover by Bruce Timm. Dini and Timm are the producers of *Batman: The Animated Movie* and *Batman: The Animated Series.* 64 pages, no ads. *(Glossy Format)* $3.95

THE BATMAN ADVENTURES: MAD LOVE

FEBRUARY COVER DATE

☐ **BATMAN: IN DARKEST KNIGHT**
A daring Elseworlds adventure tells what might have happened had the dying Abin Sur selected Bruce Wayne to be the Green Lantern of Earth. But this Emerald Gladiator is like none of those who preceded him. Vowing to avenge the murder of his long-dead parents, Bruce Wayne wages a war on crime with one of the most awesome weapons ever created... and it isn't long before his indomitable will and dark demeanor come into conflict with the Green Lantern Corps' great betrayer, Sinestro, who takes on a maniacal, Jokerlike aspect in his determination to destroy Wayne. Written by Mike W. Barr, with art and painted, foil-embossed cover by Jerry Bingham. *(Prestige Format)* $4.95

☐ **CHAIN GANG WAR #8**
The Chain Gang makes explosive surgical strikes on a number of illegal gambling dens owned by the Crooked Man, a twisted criminal mastermind with the entire city in his clutches... and a sick combat arena in his mansion called "The Pit." Written by John Wagner, with art by Dave Johnson and John Dell. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **DEATHSTROKE, THE TERMINATOR #33**
Part 7 of the 8-part "World Tour": Deathstroke and Vigilante enter the Triad mob's mind-warping Dallas deathtrap building. Speeding subway trains and a Gothic cathedral are just a small part of the bewildering images they must face in search of the final piece of the scattered armor. Written by Marv Wolfman, with art and cover by Steve Erwin and Will Blyberg. *(New Format)* $1.75

BATMAN: IN DARKEST KNIGHT

CHAIN GANG WAR #8

☐ **FLASH #87**
Now back up to speed, Flash finds it increasingly difficult to stay connected with his "normal" friends, and a desperate race through Keystone City to stop an escalating crime wave is only making the problem worse. Plus, Flash's life in Keystone reaches a turning point when Christmas brings with it an ominous gift. Written by Mark Waid, with art by Mike Wieringo and José Marzan, Jr. Cover by Alan Davis and Mark Farmer. $1.50

FEBRUARY COVER DATE

☐ **HARDWARE #12**
When the Shadow War broke out, Hardware and Harm set aside their differences. Now that it's over, it's time to work things out—and work each other over! Written by Dwayne McDuffie and pencilled by Rich Buckler. Cover by Denys Cowan. $1.50

☐ **LEGIONNAIRES #11**
Kid Quantum joins the Legionnaires, just as several members of the team disappear after an encounter with Kid Psycho. Also, a visit from Kono poses problems for Matter-Eater Lad, and tensions between Saturn Girl and Live Wire finally erupt. Written by Tom and Mary Bierbaum, with art by Chris Sprouse, Joe Phillips, and Karl Story. Cover by Sprouse and Story. $1.50

LEGIONNAIRES #11

HARDWARE #12

☐ **THE SPECTRE #15**
The Phantom Stranger gathers Etrigan the Demon, Doctor Fate, and HELLBLAZER's John Constantine to challenge the Spectre's ominous judgment against mankind. But even these mystical adepts may not survive the spirit's wrath. Written by John Ostrander, with art by Tom Mandrake. Cover by Kelley Jones. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **STAR TREK® #57**
The *Enterprise*'s true timeline has been restored at last, leaving Kirk, McCoy, Uhura and Sulu trapped in the past by the same temporal terrorists who destroyed the Romulan Empire. Written by Howard Weinstein, with art by Rob Davis and Arne Starr. Cover by Rod Whigham and Carlos Garzón. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **SUPERBOY #1**
Spinning out of "Reign of the Supermen," the Metropolis Kid is striking out on his own in the explosive premiere of his ongoing series. After relocating to Hawaii, Superboy confronts a three-armed villain with a score to settle. It seems that somehow, somewhere, the combatants have met before, and this rematch may tear up all Honolulu. Written by Karl Kesel, with art by Tom Grummett and Doug Hazlewood. Cover by Grummett and Kesel. $1.50

☐ **SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #30 COLLECTOR'S EDITION**
This issue is polybagged with "vinyl clings" of Superman and Lobo that adhere to the wraparound cover in any position, allowing you to actually design your own cover! Lobo tracks down Superman and drags him away from Earth, hoping to finish the job that Doomsday started. Both combatants are shocked to find that Superman is now unaffected by the airless, subzero void of deep space and more powerful than ever. Written by Louise Simonson, with art and cover by Jon Bogdanove and Dennis Janke. $2.50

FEBRUARY COVER DATE

SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #30 STANDARD EDITION
This Standard Edition features the same exciting story as the Collector's Edition, with a different cover by Jon Bogdanove and Dennis Janke, and no polybag or cover enhancement. Written by Louise Simonson, with art and cover by Bogdanove and Janke. $1.50

VALOR #16
Part 5 of the 6-part "D.O.A.": The Legionnaires arrive in the 20th century as Valor, with less than 24 hours to live, saves an entire planet from self-destruction. In return, the inhabitants proclaim him king. Valor vows to protect his new world from any and all threats... and that includes the Legionnaires. Written by Mark Waid, with art by Colleen Doran and Mischa McDowell. Cover by Stuart Immonen. $1.50

SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #30 STANDARD EDITION

WONDER WOMAN #83
With her powers fading, Wonder Woman must battle a super-arsenal in a trap sprung by Ares Buchanan. But much worse awaits her when someone she trusts betrays her in a treacherous attack. Written by William Messner-Loebs, with art by Lee Moder and Ande Parks. Cover by Brian Bolland. $1.50

SHIPPING DECEMBER 21

BATMAN: SHADOW OF THE BAT #24
Continuing "Knightquest: The Crusade," featuring Batman: Encounters with a gang smuggling black-market babies into Gotham City leads Batman to use self-hypnosis in an attempt to learn the identity of his mother. Written by Alan Grant, with art by Vince Giarrano. Painted cover by Brian Stelfreeze. *(New Format)* $1.75

THE DEMON #44
When the archfiend Asteroth raises the dread Gotho-Daemon, Etrigan and Hitman must get past their mutual distrust if they're going to stand a chance against the infernal creature. Written by Garth Ennis, with art and cover by John McCrea. *(New Format)* $1.75

GREEN LANTERN #49
Part 2 of the 3-part "Emerald Twilight": Hal Jordan has gone rogue, rocketing to Oa in a desperate quest for power—the power to restore Coast City! When the other Green Lanterns are unable to stop him, the Guardians are forced to reinstate the one member of the Corps who might put an end to Jordan's rampage. Written by Ron Marz, with art by Fred Haynes and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Darryl Banks and Romeo Tanghal. $1.50

HAWKMAN #6
The Eradicator from "Reign of the Supermen" guest-stars as members of the Justice League join the fight against the enhanced forces of MetaTech. Meanwhile, Hawkman and Hawkwoman take the battle to the spirit plane in an effort to return to their own bodies and bring an end to Count Viper. Plus, revelations about Hawkman's new powers... and the truth about his never-before-seen mother! Written by John Ostrander, with art by Steve Lieber and Rick Magyar. Cover by Jan Duursema. *(New Format)* $1.75

FEBRUARY COVER DATE

ICON #10
In the aftermath of the Shadow War, Icon plans to use the truth about the Big Bang to go after Holocaust. Meanwhile, Rocket finally tells her mother that she's pregnant. Written by Dwayne McDuffie, with art and cover by M.D. Bright and Mike Gustovich. $1.50

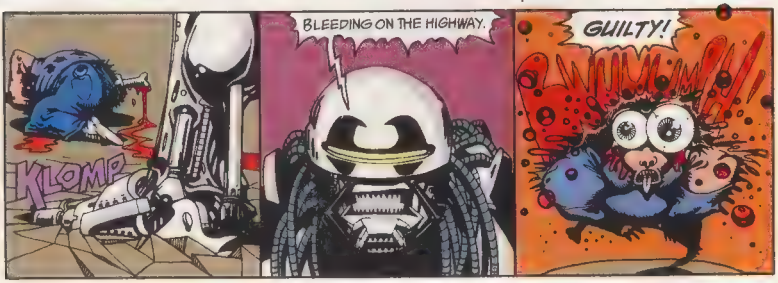
JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #85
Seeking to save Ice from her magically supercharged and evil brother Ewald, the Justice League faces the elemental fury of the mythic Frost Giants. And while that battle rages, Ice and Ewald confront one another... for the last time! Written by Dan Vado and pencilled by Kevin West. Cover by West. $1.50

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #54
A new direction begins for the Legion of Super-Heroes in a special 28-page story, featuring a die-cut, foil-stamped cover enhancement. Following their battle with Glorith, the team is devastated as one member lies dead and several others have been forever altered. But when the Legion returns to its home base on Talus, the team finds itself on the run—branded traitors by the galaxy they've sworn to protect! If they want to survive, the team must go "underground," knowing its one chance for redemption is already lost in the twisted streams of time. Written by Tom McCraw, with art and cover by Stuart Immonen and Ron Boyd. *(New Format)* $2.95

ICON #10

LOBOCOP #1
After Lobo accidentally parties himself to death, some twisted corporate scientists decide that the late Main Man would be the perfect subject for a sick experiment to create the ultimate law enforcer. Salvaging Lobo's deranged brain for placement in a robot body, the Last Czarnian becomes... LOBOCOP. His prime directive—frag all crims! This one-shot special is written by Alan Grant, with art and cover by Martin Emond. *(Glossy Format)* $1.95

THE NEW TITANS #108
Following the tragic outcome of "Terminus—The Fate of Cyborg," the Titans return to an Earth that greets them as heroes, with special appearances by Supergirl, Flash, Lex Luthor, and Sarge Steel. Plus, Nightwing tries to help Starfire cope with the devastating emotional fallout of Raven's savage attack. Written by Marv Wolfman, with art and cover by Bill Jaaska. *(New Format)* $1.75



LOBOCOP #1

FEBRUARY COVER DATE

S.T.A.R. CORPS #4
(of a 6-issue miniseries)
Mindgame's strike on S.T.A.R. Labs' Silicon Valley facility leads to the emergence of the ancient African wizardry of Ndoki—the fourth paranormal to come into being from Mindgame's uncontrolled experiments. Written by Dan Vado, with art and cover by Norm Felchle and Mike Machlan. $1.50

SUPERGIRL #1
(of a 4-issue miniseries)
Supergirl's beginning to realize that Lex Luthor II isn't quite the noble soul he's led her to believe he is as she gets closer to discovering a terrible secret he's been keeping from her ever since Doomsday hit Metropolis. Written by Roger Stern, with art by June Brigman and Jackson Guice. Cover by Kerry Gammill and Bob Wiacek. $1.50

SUPERMAN #88
Left in deep space by Lobo, Superman discovers what's left of the Sun Devils while pondering the implications of his heightened powers. Meanwhile, on Earth, Lois Lane closes in on a LexCorp scandal. Written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens and inked by Steve Mitchell. Cover by Jurgens and Josef Rubinstein. $1.50

SHIPPING DECEMBER 28

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #509
Still in deep space after his fight with Lobo, Superman encounters Auron, the superpowered clone of Guardian (first seen in THE LEGACY OF SUPERMAN #1), who possesses some of Superman's DNA. Together they battle an alien malevolence, but Auron is felled by something far more insidious — something connected to Superman himself. Written by Karl Kesel, with art by Barry Kitson and Ray McCarthy. Cover by Kitson and Kesel. $1.50

BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #57
Part 3 of the 3-part "Watchtower," depicting a potential future for the Dark Knight: Beaten and left for dead by agents of the security firm Vigil Inc., Batman goes to war to stop them from taking over Gotham City. Armed and armored for all-out combat, the Dark Knight invades Vigil's Watchtower headquarters to take down its president. Written by Chuck Dixon, with art and cover by Mike McMahon. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

BLOOD SYNDICATE #11
The Shadow War is over, and the Blood Syndicate finds two new members among them: Oro and Aquamaria. Plus, more is revealed about Kwai's past... and Fade's future. Written by Ivan Velez, Jr., with art by Chriscross and Shepherd Hendrix. Cover by Chriscross. $1.50

DETECTIVE COMICS #671
Continuing "Knightquest: The Crusade," featuring Batman: The Clown Prince of Crime devises a crazed new scheme to destroy the Dark Knight. But the game changes when the Joker discovers this isn't the same Batman he's known! Written by Chuck Dixon, with art by Graham Nolan and Scott Hanna. Cover by Kelley Jones. $1.50

BLOOD SYNDICATE #11

FEBRUARY COVER DATE

ECLIPSO #16
A host of heroes including Green Lantern Alan Scott, Guy Gardner, Hourman, Jade, Obsidian, Green Arrow, Mister Miracle, and others guest-star as the stormclouds of war gather over Parador. America's super-heroes and a United Nations military force prepare for an all-out assault on Eclipso to free the island nation from his evil rule. Plus, a mysterious new figure seeks the black diamonds. Written by Robert Loren Fleming, with art and cover by Audwynn Jermaine Newman and Ray Kryssing. $1.50

FIGHTING AMERICAN #1
(of a 6-issue miniseries)
The Fighting American storms into action in an all-new miniseries. This action-packed satire places the classic Joe Simon/Jack Kirby creation in 1990s America. Now the Fighting American, who was created to battle a Red Menace that no longer exists, takes on the bewilderingly different social and political threats of today—threats masterminded by the diabolical masters of the non sequitur, the Free Association. Written by Dave Rawson and Pat McGreal, with art and cover by Greg LaRocque and Richard Space. $1.50

JUSTICE LEAGUE TASK FORCE #9
The Martian Manhunter leads a team of New Blood heroes (introduced in the BLOODLINES Annuals) against the fury of Wildman, the victim of a previously undiscovered parasite attack who has been transformed into a giant, raging beast. Written by Jeph Loeb, with art by Greg LaRocque and Frank Percy. Cover by Sal Velluto and Jeff Albrecht. $1.50

FIGHTING AMERICAN #1

FEBRUARY COVER DATE

OUTSIDERS #4

☐ **L.E.G.I.O.N. '94 #63**
Superman makes a special appearance following his recent battle with Lobo in SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #30. Unfortunately for Superman, Lobo thinks they're pals... and the Main Man's got a strange way of treating his friends. Also, Stealth discovers Dox experimenting on their child, and she's more than a little upset by this! And on the planet Ith'kaa, Captain Comet learns that behind Lady Quark's facade lurks one of his most hated enemies. Written by Tom Peyer, with art by Arnie Jorgensen and James Pascoe. Cover by Barry Kitson. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES ARCHIVES VOLUME 4**
The fourth volume of this highly-acclaimed Archives series includes classic stories from ADVENTURE COMICS #329-339 and SUPERBOY #124-125, including "The Bizarro Legion," "The War Between Krypton and Earth," "The Unknown Legionnaire," "Starfinger," and "The Sacrifice of Kid Psycho." Written by Jerry Siegel and others, with art by Curt Swan, John Forte, and others. Cover by Adam Hughes. Foreword by LSH editor KC Carlson. 224 pages. *(Hardcover book)* $39.95

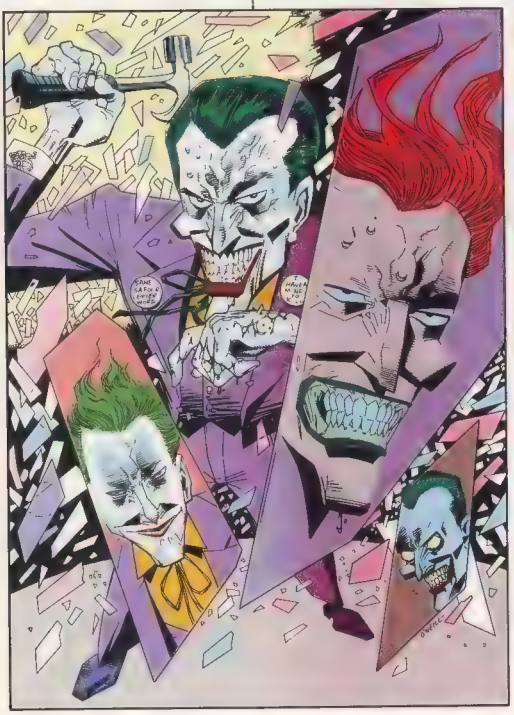
☐ **OUTSIDERS #4**
The Eradicator from "Reign of the Supermen" guest-stars. After his savage battle with the Outsiders, the Eradicator joins forces with the team to bring the conquering vampire Roderick to justice. But the former Superman's take-no-prisoners approach may get the Outsiders in deeper trouble when the Markovian army stands between them and their goal. Written by Mike W. Barr, with art and cover by Paul Pelletier and Robert Campanella. *(New Format)* $1.75

FEBRUARY COVER DATE

SHOWCASE '94 #2
(of a 12-issue limited series)
In the conclusion of a 2-part voyage through the Joker's insanity, the Clown Prince of Crime must somehow kill bizarre, distorted visions of Batman and himself for his own survival. Written by James Robinson, with pencils by Christian Alamy. New Blood hero Gunfire's 2-part adventure concludes when Dominion breaks into his experimental weapons vault—with explosive results. This story, a prelude to the upcoming GUNFIRE ongoing series, is written by Len Wein, with art by Thomas Tenney and Mike Christian. Blue Beetle begins a 3-part adventure in what may be the safest town in the country... provided you play by the local rules. Written by Brian Augustyn, with art by Patrick Rolo and Dick Giordano. The cover of this issue, featuring the Joker, is by Kevin O'Neill. 48 pages. $1.95

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION® #57
Deanna, Dr. Selar, and Worf — trapped in the bodies of Alexander, Geordi, and Lwaxana Troi — attempt to break out of their prison, while Picard is prevented from locating them. Written by Michael Jan Friedman, with art by Deryl Skelton. Cover by Jason Palmer and Jerome Moore. *(New Format)* $1.75

STEEL #1
Breaking out of "Reign of the Superman," John Henry Irons heads for Washington, DC to start life anew. But his mysterious past continues to haunt him. And in the wake of the violence that's pursued him home, John is again compelled to forge a suit of powered armor, and to assume the new mantle of STEEL. Written by Jon Bogdanove and Louise Simonson, with art by Chris Batista and Rich Faber. Cover by Bogdanove and Dennis Janke. $1.50



SHOWCASE '94 #2

TEAM TITANS #17
After his separation from Raven, the fate of Nightwing's malevolent future self, Deathwing, is revealed as he finds another villainous ally. Plus, the Team comes another step closer to learning the true identity of the Leader. Written by Jeffrey Jensen and Phil Jimenez, with art by new penciller Terry Dodson and Will Blyberg. Cover by Jimenez. *(New Format)* $1.75

SHIPPING JANUARY 4

ACTION COMICS #696
Still testing his newfound ability to travel unaided amid the stars, Superman encounters the lonely champion of an alien planet... a being doomed to protect a barren world in the hopes that his race will one day return. Written by Roger Stern, with art by Jackson Guice and Denis Rodier. Cover by Guice. $1.50

AQUAMAN: TIME & TIDE #3
(of a 4-issue miniseries)
Young Arthur Curry battles a raging polar bear to save an Enuit woman destined to mean a great deal to the adult Aquaman. But the threat of the bear itself is child's play compared to the evil of Nuliajak, the mother of all sea-beasts, and her undersea devil hound. Plus, an appearance by Arthur's brother Orm, the man who would one day be Aquaman's greatest foe... the Ocean Master. Written by Peter David, with art and cover by Kirk Jarvinen and Brad Vancata. $1.50

THE BATMAN ADVENTURES #17
Armed with vital information gained from Talia, Batman and Robin go after her father, the Demon's Head himself — Ra's al Ghul. Written by Kelley Puckett, with art and cover by Mike Parobeck and Rick Burchett. $1.50

CATWOMAN #7
Continuing "Knightquest: The Crusade," featuring Batman, and continued from BATMAN #504. Catwoman escapes the cage into which Batman had placed her and, with the Dark Knight in pursuit, goes after the real culprits behind the terrorist plot to flood Gotham City with a deadly nerve gas. Written by Jo Duffy, with art by Jim Balent and Dick Giordano. Cover by Balent. $1.50

FEBRUARY COVER DATE

THE DARKSTARS #17
The being behind the rash of grisly murders and technology thefts is revealed to the Darkstars — but it isn't who they thought it was. Or is it? Written by Michael Jan Friedman, with art by Christopher Taylor and Ken Branch. Cover by Randy DuBurke. *(New Format)* $1.75

DEMOLITION MAN #4
(of a 4-issue miniseries)
The DC Comics adaptation of the Warner Bros. feature film concludes as Spartan is aided by Edgar Friendly's outcasts in a final conflict with Simon Phoenix and his thugs. The climax is a cryoprison free-for-all! Written by Gary Cohn, with art by Rod Whigham and Dick Giordano. Cover by Kevin Maguire. *(New Format)* $1.75

GREEN ARROW #83
Tracking down a huge Yakuza arms shipment in Los Angeles, Green Arrow stumbles upon the murders of beautiful young women, a path that puts him in league with the Huntress. Written by Chuck Dixon, with art by Jim Aparo and Gerry Fernandez. Cover by Dan Norton and Gerry Fernandez. *(New Format)* $1.75

THE BATMAN ADVENTURES #17

GREEN ARROW #83

FEBRUARY COVER DATE

GUY GARDNER: WARRIOR #17
Gardner's battle with the armored killing machine Militia—secretly Guy's own brother, Mace—reaches a shattering conclusion that inspires Gardner to assume his new super-hero name, Warrior. Written by Chuck Dixon, with art by Mitch Byrd and Dennis Cramer, and cover by Byrd and Dan Davis. $1.50

JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL #61
The JLI's just about gotten used to Godfrey, the strange, silent alien giant with the incredible power to do literally anything. But there'll be no getting used to Godfrey's even more powerful family, whose arrival threatens the Earth with destruction. Written by Gerard Jones and Will Jacobs and pencilled by Chuck Wojtkiewicz. Cover by Wojtkiewicz. $1.50

LEGENDS OF THE WORLD'S FINEST #1
(of a 3-issue miniseries)
Superman and the Batman join forces in an untold tale of nightmarish terror and infernal schemes. When Silver Banshee and the ancient entity Tullus unite against the demonic Blaze, the Man of Steel and the Dark Knight are drawn into a sinister web. Now the heroes are dreaming each other's dreams while the villains battle in the Netherworld. And the outcome may cost them both their souls. Written by Walter Simonson, with fully-painted art and foil-embossed cover by Dan Brereton. *(Prestige Format)* $4.95

CHNK!
SLUICE!
RIPPP!
DONGK!
WHAT TH' FRAG KINDA WORLD IS THIS, ANYWAY, WHERE YA CAN'T SAVE A GEEK UNATTENDED FER FIVE FRAGGIN' SECONDS?
SKK!
HACK!
WHACK!
CHEW KOOK, YA FOUL-BREATHED FREAK! AN' COULD'VE SAVED US ALL A LOT OF TIME 'N AGGRAVATION 'N SERIOUS BEATIN' YA SEE OBVIOUSLY DESERVE!
BASTION!

LOBO #3

LOBO #3
Lobo and Jonas Glim are one step closer to apprehending the notorious accountant Digly and the equally notorious Dead Boys. All they have to do is go through Don Alduc's Pan-Galactic Mob and their battletanks—and then down into the sewers running beneath the city where the frag really hits the fan! Written by Alan Grant, with art and cover by Val Semeiks and John Dell. *(New Format)* $1.75

ROBIN #4
While Robin tries to balance the demands of crime-fighting with those of his private life, Cluemaster, Electrocutioner, and Czonk go berserk planning their next heist. Written by Chuck Dixon, with art by Tom Grummett and Ray Kryssing. Cover by Grummett. $1.50

SCARLETT #14
In the cataclysmic conclusion to the saga of Scarlett, the final battle between the forces of vampirekind and its hunters is fought in Houston... where the blood just keeps on flowing. Written by Tom Joyner and K.S. Wilson, with art and cover by Jim Fern. Final issue. *(New Formatt)* $1.75

STATIC #9
While on a quest for cool shoes, Static encounters a big guy stealing jewelry. Or is it a bunch of little guys? The real answer lies in Virus, a villain with a very disquieting past. Written by Robert L. Washington III, with art by John Paul Leon and Rober Quijano. Cover by Leon and Steve Mitchell. $1.50

STATIC #9

DC #71

DIRECT CURRENTS

FEBRUARY COVER DATE

VERTIGO

IN THIS ISSUE:

AMERICAN FREAK: A TALE OF THE UN-MEN—Sometimes horror is in the genes.

DEATH TALKS ABOUT LIFE—Spreading the word on AIDS.

Cover of the Month
KID ETERNITY #18

NOTHING IS ENDLESS

At last it has come—a time long foretold, a conflagration of nightmarish proportions that will affect the future of the Dreaming. The Corinthian, Lucifer Morningstar, the Three Witches, Cluracan and Nuala, Mervyn Pumpkinhead, all these and others—friends, foes and unexpected betrayers—return in "The Kindly Ones," the last major story arc of THE SANDMAN, beginning in issue #57.

Joining Neil Gaiman in this landmark storyline is Marc Hempel, creator of GREGORY, using the lush, sensuous style he employed in BREATHTAKER. Following the conclusion of "The Kindly Ones," THE SANDMAN will continue with several self-contained epilogues and stand-alone tales.

THE SANDMAN #57 will also feature an 8-page preview of AMERICAN FREAK: A TALE OF THE UN-MEN in lieu of interior ads.

Coinciding with the start of "The Kindly Ones," VERTIGO presents the trade paperback edition of THE SANDMAN: FABLES & REFLECTIONS, a collection of stand-alone tales including "Distant Mirrors" from THE SANDMAN #29-31, and #50; the "Convergence" stories from #38-40; "Orpheus" from THE SANDMAN SPECIAL #1; and an expanded version of "Fear of Falling" from the VERTIGO PREVIEW. Featuring the acclaimed artistic talents of Mark Buckingham, Duncan Eagleson, Dick Giordano, Vince Locke, Shawn McManus, P. Craig Russell, Bryan Talbot, Jill Thompson, John Watkiss, Kent Williams, and Stan Woch, THE SANDMAN: FABLES & REFLECTIONS trade paperback also boasts interior design and a new cover by Dave McKean, award-winning cover artist for THE SANDMAN.

DEATH TALKS ABOUT LIFE

By popular request and as a public service, DC is reprinting DEATH TALKS ABOUT LIFE, an 8-page AIDS-awareness project intended to promote greater understanding of this pervasive disease.

With a script by THE SANDMAN writer Neil Gaiman, and art by THE SANDMAN cover artist Dave McKean, the comic features the character Death offering frank, explicit, common sense information about the HIV virus and the deadly disease AIDS. Also included are facts about low-risk behavior, precautions, and a list of organizations to contact for more information about AIDS.

When DEATH TALKS ABOUT LIFE was first published last year as an insert in several VERTIGO titles, Gaiman commented, "No one has to read it, but those of us involved in the project aren't interested in reaching only the converted. It's about education and common sense. It's about being sensible. Death is hosting because she's probably one of the most sensible characters in comics. Who better to argue for life than Death?"

DC is offering DEATH TALKS ABOUT LIFE as a public service. Check with your local comics shop about availability.

Jeffrey Lang, Writer
Marco Palmieri, Editors
Tom McCraw, Colorist
Patricia Jeres, Manager—Marketing Communications
Bob Wayne, Director—Direct Market Sales

DIRECT CURRENTS #71 February 1994. Published by DC Comics, 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. Copyright © 1993 by DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Except as otherwise noted, all DC Comics books, titles, characters names, slogans, logos, and related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics.
VERTIGO and PIRANHA PRESS are trademarks of DC Comics All Rights Reserved
CHAIN GANG WAR is Copyright © 1993 John Wagner and David Johnson. All Rights Reserved.
DEMOLITION MAN, all characters, names and related indicia are trademarks of Warner Bros. Copyright © 1993
FIGHTING AMERICAN is Copyright © 1993 Joe Simon and Jack Kirby.
MILESTONE and related logo are TM Milestone Media Inc. All Rights Reserved.
HARDWARE BLOOD SYNDICATE ICON, and STATIC are TM 1993 DC Comics and Copyright © 1993 Milestone Media, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
SCARAB is Copyright © 1993 John Smith and Scot Eaton All Rights Reserved
SCARLETT is Copyright © 1993 Tom Joyner, Keith Wilson and Jim Fern All Rights Reserved
STAR TREK and STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION are copyright © 1993 Paramount Pictures. All Rights Reserved STAR TREK and STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION are registered trademarks of Paramount Pictures. DC Comics Authorized User.

FREAKS OF NATURE

Damien Kane was going on twenty-four when the pains began. His eyes would feel like orbs of molten metal in their sockets; the muscles in his abdomen would stretch and shriek like tortured cats. Damien did what anyone would do under the circumstances—he called the only family he'd known since his parents died, the U.S. Army. They flew him to an Army base in Louisiana where he was met by Doctor David Manguy, the man who'd brought him into the world.

Manguy took Damien to a secret cryogenic crypt in the basement of his laboratory and showed him the twisted remains of two deformed creatures who had been cobbled together by the insane genius Anton Arcane as part of yet another experiment in the pursuit of immortality. The guards in Manguy's lab called these monsters the Un-Men. Dr. Manguy told Damien to call them Mom and Dad.

Manguy told Damien the horrifying truth: Biology is destiny. Damien's genetic structure had remained stable for a long time, but now his body felt it was time for a change.

Now Damien embarks on a journey beyond the borders of the human condition and into the Wasteland where freaks are family, and where the Un-Men live out an uncertain existence.

Written by Dave Louapre (BEAUTIFUL STORIES FOR UGLY CHILDREN), with art by Vince Locke (THE SANDMAN, Deadworld), AMERICAN FREAK: A TALE OF THE UN-MEN is a grim, compelling psychological drama that explores the philosophical implications of man playing God and the struggle of the individual to retain his sanity in the face of physical erosion.

FEBRUARY COVER DATE

SHIPPING DECEMBER 14

BLACK ORCHID #6
With the lethal agents of Logos still in pursuit, Black Orchid and Sherilyn arrive in San Antonio, Texas, and stumble into a magical snare set by an ambitious adept in Native American mysticism. Written by Dick Foreman, with art by Jill Thompson and Stan Woch. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *(Suggested for mature readers. New Format.)* $1.95

THE SANDMAN: FABLES AND REFLECTIONS TRADE PAPERBACK
A collection of Neil Gaiman's stand-alone tales from the shores of the Dreaming and points beyond, including the "Distant Mirrors" stories from THE SANDMAN #29-31, and #50; the "Convergence" stories from #38-40; "Orpheus" from THE SANDMAN SPECIAL #1; and an expanded version of "Fear of Falling" from the VERTIGO PREVIEW, with art by such luminaries as Mark Buckingham, Duncan Eagleson, Dick Giordano, Vince Locke, Shawn McManus, P. Craig Russell, Bryan Talbot, Jill Thompson, John Watkiss, Kent Williams, and Stan Woch. The paperback edition features interior design and a new cover by THE SANDMAN cover artist, Dave McKean. *(Suggested for mature readers. 264 pages. Trade paperback.)* $19.95

THE SANDMAN: FABLES AND REFLECTIONS TRADE PAPERBACK

SANDMAN MYSTERY THEATRE #11
Part 3 of the 4-part "The Brute": Even as Wesley Dodds continues his probe into the horrifying history of the Brute, twin tragedies strike the Ramsey family. Written by Matt Wagner, with art by R.G. Taylor. Photo cover by Gavin Wilson and Richard Bruning. *(Suggested for mature readers. New Format.)* $1.95

SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN #44
Part 3 of the 3-part "History Lesson": Kathy and Lenny's witchcraft trial adjourns with madness and magic as Shade and HELLBLAZER's John Constantine fight for the future—a future in which the History Man and Kathy's unborn child cannot both exist. Written by Peter Milligan, with art by Chris Bachalo and Rick Bryant. Painted cover by Duncan Fegredo. *(Suggested for mature readers. New Format.)* $1.95

SHIPPING DECEMBER 21

DEATH TALKS ABOUT LIFE
As a public service and by popular demand, DC reprints this 8-page AIDS-awareness story featuring Death from the pages of THE SANDMAN offering frank, explicit, life-saving advice about the HIV virus and AIDS prevention. Also included are facts about low-risk behavior, precautions, and a list of organizations to contact for more information about AIDS and HIV. Written by Neil Gaiman, with art by THE SANDMAN cover artist, Dave McKean. *(Suggested for mature readers. 8 pages. No cover.)*

HELLBLAZER #74
In part 3 of the 4-part "Damnation's Flame," John Constantine, still trapped in a nightmare version of America, travels toward Washington, DC, accompanied by a strangely familiar man with a hole in his head. But as the true nature of this hell is revealed, Constantine comes to an important realization about his world — and himself. Written by Garth Ennis, with art by Steve Dillon. Painted cover by Glenn Fabry. *(Suggested for mature readers. New Format.)* $1.95

KID ETERNITY #10
When the Kid befriends a kind but hardened hustler living in the bowels of Times Square, he learns a thing or two about real people's problems and experiences firsthand what real violence feels like. Written by Ann Nocenti, with art by Sean Phillips. Painted cover by Phillips. *(Suggested for mature readers. New Format.)* $1.95

FEBRUARY COVER DATE

SHIPPING DECEMBER 28

☐ **ANIMAL MAN #68**
In the conclusion of the 2-part "Mysterious Ways," Saint Evelyn tries to use her healing powers to cure Maxine's wild-ways, an attempt that leads to an improvement in *Lucy's* condition. Also in this issue, Deputy Dan faces an unlikely foe. Written by Jamie Delano, with art by Steve Pugh. Photo cover by Tom Taggart. *(Suggested for mature readers. New Format.)* $1.95

☐ **THE SANDMAN #57**
Part 1 of "The Kindly Ones": The Corinthian, Lucifer Morningstar, the Three Witches, Cluracan, Nuala, and Mervyn Pumpkinhead all return in "The Kindly Ones," the last major story arc of THE SANDMAN. A host of old friends, ancient enemies and unlooked-for traitors converge as a time long foretold in the Dreaming arrives at last. Written by Neil Gaiman, with art by Marc Hempel. Painted cover by Dave McKean. This issue also includes a special 8-page preview of AMERICAN FREAK: A TALE OF THE UN-MEN. *(Suggested for mature readers. New Format.)* $1.95

THE SANDMAN

SHIPPING JANUARY 4

☐ **AMERICAN FREAK: A TALE OF THE UN-MEN #1**
(of a 5-issue miniseries)
Damien Kane's life is breaking apart, breaking down. Everything, including his own body, has betrayed him. In the first chapter of this riveting psychological drama, Damien discovers that his life is tied to a failed government experiment—an experiment that involved the patchwork monstrosities created by the twisted genius Anton Arcane: the Un-Men. Written by Dave Louapre, with art by Vince Locke. Painted cover by Locke. *(Suggested for mature readers. New Format.)* $1.95

AMERICAN FREAK: A TALE OF THE UN-MEN #1

FEBRUARY COVER DATE

AMERICAN FREAK: A TALE OF THE UN-MEN #1

☐ **DOOM PATROL #75**
In part 1 of the 5-part "The Teiresias Wars," the new U.S. President is escorted into the bowels of the Pentagon where he witnesses a terrifying sight, an event that marks the renewal of an ages-old conflict between the impossibly ancient shapeshifting magicians, the Teiresiae, and the Builders, whose plan it is to recreate the Tower of Babel. Written by Rachel Pollack, and featuring new regular interior artist Ted McKeever (THE EXTREMIST). Painted cover by Brian Bolland. *(Suggested for mature readers. New Format.)* $1.95

☐ **SCARAB #4**
(of an 8-issue miniseries)
Scarab faces the Rathorach, a mysterious creature from Balkan mythology that is behind the deaths of the men in Whitehaven, North Carolina. But the women of the town are Rathorach's allies, and only the one remaining man in Whitehaven holds the key to stopping the creature. Written by John Smith, with art by Scot Eaton and Michael Barreiro. Painted cover by Glenn Fabry. *(Suggested for mature readers. New Format.)* $1.95

DOOM PATROL #75